

Winter Weatherization Choices

There are simple things that anyone can do to conserve energy and help lower utility bills. Please take a look below to find some helpful tips which will allow you to stay warm and save some money doing it!

1. Add weather-stripping and caulking to doors and windows. As much as 30 to 40 percent of a home's energy load is attributed to outside air penetrating the house.
 - o Add weather stripping tapes that adhere directly to door or window frames for a tight seal.
 - o Fit foam or rubber weather stripping into the gaps around your doors or windows.
 - o Install rubber or foam bottom seals under doors.
 - o Add a door sweep to seal the gap at the bottom of a door from drafts.
2. Change disposable air filters in your furnace two or three times a year.
3. Have your furnace inspected by a professional at least once a year.
4. Check for appropriate insulation around the pipes, walls, attic and floor. Choose the right R-value, which is a measure of insulating power. Higher R-values mean greater insulating power, which provides greater household energy savings and cost savings. Look for R-values on insulation packaging or talk to a Qualified Gas Contractor.
5. Turn down the water heater's thermostat setting to about 120 degrees and switch to "vacation" setting when you'll be away for a few days.
 - o When washing clothes, use warm or cold water - not hot - and rinse with cold water.
 - o Install a low flow showerhead. Showers use less hot water than baths.
6. Use a programmable thermostat. Set at 68° during the day, 65° at night and 55° when no one is home.
7. Close off unoccupied rooms and close heating vents.
8. Use exterior doors farthest from the thermostat.
9. Use the sunlight to warm rooms. Close drapes and blinds at night to retain heat.
10. Wear more layers of clothing and warmer, insulated clothing while indoors.
11. Put extra blankets or a down comforter on the bed.
12. Make sure that dishwashers, washing machines and dryers are fully loaded before running.
13. When it's time to replace appliances, choose those with high-energy efficiency ratings.
14. Install storm or thermal windows and doors.